

## Bologna, a front-runner in regulating the urban commons

PLACE AND DATE

ORGANIZER

**Online, [4 April 2019]**

**EUROCITIES, JB**

### Objectives

A webinar is an online meeting for the exchange of knowledge. Webinars are a powerful medium for reaching varied audiences. The webinars can be used to exchange specific knowledge between experts spread all over Europe, without expensive and time-consuming travelling. Easy to access as well as convenient, webinars are an effective mode of learning for professionals.

### General background on the discussed topic

In the last five years, Bologna has successfully trialed an urban innovation model based on circular subsidiarity and civic collaboration, the 'collaborative city', which means public administrations governing not only on behalf of citizens, but also with citizens, basing their policies on the two concepts of city as commons and citizens as a great source of energy, talents, resources, capabilities and ideas in support of urban regeneration.

Active citizens, social innovators, entrepreneurs, civil society organisations and institutions, willing to work for the general interest can start a co-designed project with the city government leading to the signing of a collaboration pact for the care or regeneration of urban commons such as, for example, public spaces, urban green areas, abandoned buildings or areas.

The policy framework for managing all collaborative projects, from valorisation of cultural heritage to spontaneous street or building cleaning initiatives is the 'Regulation on collaboration between citizens and the city for the care and regeneration of urban commons'.

The regulation was officially adopted in 2014. From that moment on, around 636 proposals have been presented and around 470 collaboration pacts have been signed; 191 Italian cities have adopted a similar tool for participative urban regeneration processes and for the care of urban commons, while 57 more cities are working at the moment on its adoption.

Starting from Bologna's inspiring example, we will discuss the commons theories and principles and how they can be applied to urban governance. We will share ideas and practice around urban commons and cultural commons in cities, going into details of local examples inspired by the Bologna experience, such as Turin and Ghent.

### Presented practices



- The [regulation of collaboration](#) between citizens and the city for the care and regeneration of urban commons in **Bologna**. The regulation was officially adopted in 2014, setting up a reference framework so that managing urban commons together with citizens could become a structural, permanent and transversal public policy and alliance for the care of the city.
- Within the framework of the [CO-CITY project](#) supported by the Urban Innovative Actions programme, **Turin** aims to develop the experience of the commons towards the creation of an innovative social welfare that will foster the co-production of services with community enterprises.
- The [Commons Transition Plan](#) in **Ghent** describes the possibilities and role of the City of Ghent (as a local authority) in reinforcing citizen initiatives. With this, the City wishes to give further shape to a sustainable and ethical economy in Ghent.

## Invited speakers

- **Giovanni Ginocchini**, architect, urban planner and director of the Fondazione Innovazione Urbana (FIU), Bologna urban centre and open laboratory to study, communicate and co-produce the urban transformations of Bologna.
- **Christian Iaione**, Professor of Public Law at LUISS Guido Carli University of Rome, co-director of LabGov, the LABORatory for the GOVERNance of the City as a Commons. LabGov is an international network of theoretical, empirical and applied research platforms engaged in exploring and developing methods, policies, and projects focused on the shared and collaborative management of urban spaces and resources.
- **Giovanni Ferrero**, officer of the City of Torino, Project Manager of the CO-CITY project (financed under the UIA - Urban Innovative Actions initiative). He is an architect, with a PhD in Urban Planning.
- **Dirk Holemans**, Ghent, coordinator of think tank Oikos and editor-in-chief of the eponymous magazine.

## Agenda

Webinar moderated by Cécile Houpert, ROCK project officer at EUROCITIES

- General introduction to the webinar (5'), Cécile Houpert, EUROCITIES
- Introduction to the city as a commons by Christian Iaione, LABGOV (15'): some ideas and practice around urban commons and cultural commons
- Presentation from Giovanni Ginocchini, FIU: the regulation of collaboration between citizens and the city for the care and regeneration of urban commons in Bologna – context, implementation, results (15')
- How has Bologna inspired others: the cases of Turin and Ghent



- Turin, the Casa del Quartiere network and CO-CITY project (10') – Giovanni Ferrero, project manager
- Ghent, the Commons Transition Plan (10') – Dirk Holemans
- Main learning points, transferability tips and things to remember (5')
- Q&A with the audience (20')
- Conclusion (5')

## Interesting links

- Collaboration Pacts homepage: <http://comunita.comune.bologna.it/beni-comuni>
- Urban commons, learning from Italy: <https://cooperativecity.org/2017/11/21/urban-commons-learning-from-italy/>

